



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 1, 2006

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ILLEGAL ALIEN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM.

TUCSON, Ariz. – Luis Antonio Morales-Suastegui, 37 years old, of Caborca, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here on August 30, 2006, to eight months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson. Morales-Suastegui had pleaded guilty on June 27, 2006, to the charge of Illegal Alien in Possession of a Firearm.

On March 29, 2006, Luis Antonio Morales-Suastegui had contact with local police as he was sitting in a vehicle with several other men on Michigan Avenue near South Sixth Avenue in Tucson, after the bicycle patrol officer passed the vehicle and smelled the odor of burning marijuana. During the investigation of the occupants of the vehicle, it was discovered that Morales-Suastegui was a Mexican citizen with no legal authority to be present in the United States. In addition, Morales-Suastegui was found to have in his possession a loaded .45 caliber handgun. Morales-Suastegui admitted that he was in this country illegally, and admitted that he had recently purchased the firearm and thought he could sell it for more money in Mexico.

The investigation in this case was jointly conducted by the Tucson Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Jennifer J. Maldonado, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-00869-TUC-CKJ
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-171(Morales-Suastegui)

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